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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/989,192	11/21/2001	Richard G. Sheets	37809-0018	9322
26633	7590	03/23/2004	EXAMINER CINTINS, IVARS C	
HELLER EHRMAN WHITE & MCAULIFFE LLP 1666 K STREET,NW SUITE 300 WASHINGTON, DC 20006			ART UNIT 1724	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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20040321

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

Ivars C. Cintins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1724

Art Unit: 1724

The communication filed on January 13, 2004 is both non-compliant and not responsive to the prior Office Action for the following reasons.

This communication is non-compliant because Applicant has changed the preamble and step (a) of claim 29 without providing underlining and strikethrough for these changes, as required by revised 37 CFR 1.121. Namely, Applicant has changed "reclaiming dredged material" to "treating sludge" in the preamble of claim 29, but has failed to strikethrough the term "reclaiming dredged material" and has failed to underline the term "treating sludge" in this portion of the claim. Similarly, Applicant has changed "dredged material" to "sludge" in step (a) of claim 29, but has failed to strikethrough the term "dredged material" and has failed to underline the term "sludge" in this portion of the claim.

The above noted communication is also not responsive to the prior Office Action because none of the claims presented in this communication appears to be directed to the elected invention. Applicant has elected method claims drawn to reclaiming dredged material (see the response filed February 28, 2003); and since Applicant has amended claim 29 so that it no longer reads on the elected invention, and has presented new claims 45-77 which do not appear to read on the elected invention, this communication is non-responsive (see MPEP § 821.03).


Since the above-mentioned communication appears to be a *bona fide* attempt to reply, Applicant is given a TIME PERIOD of **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS**, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this notice within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) ARE AVAILABLE.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to I. Cintins whose telephone number is (571) 272-1155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Blaine Copenheaver, can be reached at (571) 272-1156.

The centralized facsimile number for the USPTO is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Ivars C. Cintins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

I. Cintins
March 21, 2004